

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 SSM-03 MCT-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/082 W

-----115493 201046Z /14

R 200500Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2146
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANA 3253

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, YE
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO HAMDI

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO HAMDI, ABORTIVE EFFORTS BY TRIBAL FORCES TO ATTACK YARG AIRFIELDS HAS LED TO SOME ABASHED SAUDI WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT HAMDI IN HIS LONG TERM STRUGGLE TO STRENGTHEN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AGAINST TRIBES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 17, CHARGE SAW YARG FOREIGN MINISTER ASNAJ TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION. ASNAJ ACKNOWLEDGED TRUTH OF REPORTS WE HAD HAD OF ATTEMPTED ATTACK ON SANA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN THE LAST WEEK. FROM LOW LEVEL REPORTS WE BELIEVE THE ATTACK WAS DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAVE BEEN TIMED TO OCCUR BEFORE DEPARTURE OF PDRY PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAYYA ALI ON MONDAY 15 AUGUST. IN ANY CASE, OBJECT WAS MIG AIRCRAFT AND KATUSHYA ROCKETS WHICH USED IN THIS ATTACK FELL SHORT OF TARGET. FROM PREVIOUS FOILED EFFORTS TO ATTACK AIRPORT, IN HODEIDAH, YARG HAD SOME FOREWARNING OF LATEST ATTACK AND WAS ABLE IN SANA TO MAKE ARRESTS AND CAPTURE EQUIPMENT. MINISTER OF INTERIOR, YUSUFI, ACCOMPANIED BY SAUDI MILITARY ATTACHE,
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SALEH HUDAYYAN, THEREFORE FLEW TO RIYADH YESTERDAY TO "LAY THE ROCKETS ON SULTAN'S DESK" AND PRESENT HIM WITH REPORT OF INTERROGATION AND TRIALS OF SOME 46 PERSONS.

2. YEMENI INTERROGATION, SAID ASNAJ, RESULTED IN DISCOVERY OF LETTERS IN WHICH MOUJAHID ABU SHWARIB HAD

RECRUITED TRIBAL SOLDIERS AND TOLD THEM
ATTACK HAD SAUDI BLESSING. LETTERS PROMISED ARMES WHICH
WERE USED IN THE ATTACK.

3. ASNAJ WAS QUICK TO SAY THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE
SAUDIS HAD BACKED THIS ATTACK AND IN FACT THEIR UN-
WILLINGNESS TO APPEAR TO SPONSOR SUCH ACTIVITIES
AGAINST THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAD LED TO THE TRAVEL
OF ABDULLAH BIN HUSSAIN AL-AHMAR TO SAUDI ARABIA
LAST WEEK. ASNAJ SAID AL-AHMAR WAS STILL IN SAUDI
ARABIA AND "WOULD BE THERE FOR A LONG TIME."

4. ASNAJ ALSO SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH SENTENCES NOT
PRONOUNCED, HE EXPECTED "ABOUT 6 TO EXECUTED IN THE MAIN
SQUARE".

I ASKED ASNAJ IF CONTINUING SERIES OF NIGHT-
TIME BOMBINGS IN SANA WER INSPIRED BY SAME
PARTIES. HE SAID THEY WERE BUT EXECUTIONS WERE
LIKELY TO PUT A HALT TO SUCH SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS.
COMMENT: CONFLICT OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WITH
TRIBES HAS AN EPISODIC CHARACTER WHICH IS ONLY TOO
FAMILIAR TO OBSERVERS IN SANA AND READERS IN
WASHINGTON. WE HESITATE THEREFORE TO PREDICT THAT
DEPARTURE OF ABDULLAH BIN HUSSAIN IS, AS ASNAJ
HOPES, PERMANENT AND THAT YEMENIS WILL HAVE SAUDI
ACQUIESCENCE IN HARSH PUNISHMENT FOR TRIBAL
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OPPOSITION. UNFAVORABLE SAUDI REACTION TO THE VISIT
OF SALIM RUBAYYA ALI MAY OFFSET WHATEVER ANGER TOWARD TRIBES
SAUDIS FEEL IN BEING FALSELY CITED FOR SPONSORING ARMED
ATTACKES ON AIRFIELDS. HOWEVER, IN THIS AS IN PREVIOUS
INCIDENTS OF ARMED RESISTANCE TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
HANDI HAS PROVEN HIMSELF ABLE TO REACT FORECEFULLY AND
IN A WAY THAT WINS GENERAL SUPPORT. PATTERN FOR CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT THIS CONTINUES: ONE STEP BACK AND 2
STEPS FORWARD. SLOWLY BUT SURELY HAMD I IS GAINING
GROUND IN HIS EFFORT TO ESTABLISH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
AS DOMINANT FORCE THROUGHOUT THE LAND.
RANSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DISSIDENT FACTIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PINT, YE, (AL-HAMDI, IBRAHIM)
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